

## African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

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## Nate Harrison Archaeology Project



Seth Mallios and his colleagues at San Diego State University have now completed a number of field seasons on the Nate Harrison Archaeology Project, and present data and interpretation on an expanding internet site, available at [www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~histarch/](http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~histarch/).

A description of the project from the web site:

"Nate Harrison is one of San Diego County's legendary pioneers. Fables abound regarding this former enslaved African-American from the South who lived high upon the west slope of Palomar Mountain into the early 1900s.

There are numerous quaint tales of his frontier life. For example, this rugged yet compassionate mountain man allegedly added lizards to his coffee grinds for extra flavor, made batches of homemade mountain lion jerky, and met every visitor with a warm smile. . . . Historical archaeology has the potential to evaluate, scrutinize, broaden, and deepen insights into Nate Harrison's life and legend. This report presents findings from the inaugural 2004 San Diego State University field excavation season at the Nate Harrison site. The three-week field school successfully located the remains of Harrison's cabin and uncovered over 6,100 artifacts that date to Harrison's late 19th-century and early 20th-century occupation at Palomar Mountain. Although there had been previous pot-hunting on the site, the 2004 excavations marked the first scientific archaeology on the property."